

Evaluation of the Mullen Slough Sub-basin Watershed Management Process, King County, WA

Fiona McNair

Simon Fraser University and the Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Abstract

The Mullen Slough sub-basin drains 15.5 km² (6 mi.²) of the lower section of the Green River watershed, in south King County, Washington. Currently the sub-basin supports multiple land uses including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and open space. There is strong pressure for development throughout the sub-basin. Issues in the watershed, identified through a past public involvement process and several scientific studies include, flooding, water quality, salmonid habitat, wetland loss, and economic development. King County Surface Water Management Division conducted an in-depth series of studies for the Mullen Slough sub-basin in an attempt to plan and initiate projects to attempt to solve some of the flooding, water quality, and aquatic habitat issues in the sub-basin. The results were published in draft form for internal review within King County in Mullen Slough Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Study and Action Plan. In this report, the CIP process is evaluated by means of a new watershed management framework, created from the main steps and principles of four state and federal watershed management frameworks and supporting literature. Recommendations are made for King County concerning future research and management in the Mullen Slough sub-basin and the usefulness of the new framework is assessed and discussed.